



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Table with 5 columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO.
10/543,003 04/24/2006 Yuichi Ono 082368-004900US 7150

20350 7590 02/26/2007
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

LANDSMAN, ROBERT S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1647

Table with 3 columns: SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE, MAIL DATE, DELIVERY MODE
31 DAYS 02/26/2007 PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Art Unit: 1647

DETAILED ACTION

1. Lack of Unity

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1, 3, and 5, drawn to a dopaminergic neuron proliferative progenitor cell probe and a method of selecting cells.

Group II, claim(s) 6 and 9, drawn to a dopaminergic neuron proliferative progenitor cell.

Group III, claim 7, drawn to a method of isolating a gene.

Group IV, claim 8, drawn to a method of screening using a maturation index.

The invention listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature for the following reasons: the special technical feature of Group I is a probe. The special technical feature of Group II is a cell. The special technical feature of Group III is a method of isolating a gene. The special technical feature of Group IV is a method of screening. The special technical feature of each group is not the same, or does not correspond to the special technical feature of any other Group. The products of Groups I-II are structurally and functionally distinct, and the methods of Group III-IV require different method steps and reagents for achieving different goals. The Groups are not linked by a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2 so as to form a single inventive concept.

Furthermore, in order to be fully responsive, in addition to electing a Group, Applicants must further elect one independent and distinct SEQ ID NO selected from SEQ ID NO:1, 2, 3 or 4.


Art Unit: 1647

Advisory information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Landsman whose telephone number is (571) 272-0888. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 10 AM – 7 PM (eastern).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brenda Brumback can be reached on 571-272-0961. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Robert Landsman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1647